

CSREES SMALL FARM PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

March 27, 2003

Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension
Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture

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CSREES SMALL FARM PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS is
electronically published monthly. Special alert issues will be
available as events warrant.

This is the twentieth issue of an electronic resource tool
for State Small Farm Program Coordinators and others
to share small farm relevant information with our
stakeholders at the Land-Grant University System.

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KEY DEPARTMENT NEWS

Agriculture Secretary Veneman Establishes Working Group to Ensure, Timely, Efficient Process.

On February 20, 2003, Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman announced that the USDA is establishing a disaster assistance working group to ensure timely and efficient implementation of program benefits contained in the \$3.1 billion disaster assistance package passed

by Congress. For more information, see <http://www.usda.gov/>.

Agriculture Secretary Veneman Outlines Key Priorities for Agriculture in Remarks to 79th Annual Agricultural Outlook Forum.

On February 20, 2003, Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman presented the keynote address at the opening of the 79th Annual Agricultural Outlook Forum, where she outlined some key priorities for the food and agriculture sector to help America's farmers and ranchers better compete in the 21st Century. For more information, see <http://www.usda.gov/>.

Secretary Veneman says the President's Jobs and Economic Growth Plan Will Save Farm Families \$4 Billion in 2003.

On March 6, 2003, Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman discussed the importance of President Bush's jobs and economic growth plan to America's farmers and ranchers. For more, see <http://www.usda.gov/>.

Farms and Land in Farms Up Slightly in 2002.

The number of farms in the United States in 2002 is estimated at 2.16 million, up 0.1 percent from 2001. The increase in farms occurred primarily in agricultural operations with \$1,000-\$9,999 in sales. Total land in farms, at 941.5 million acres, increased 170,000 acres from last year. The average size of farm at 436 acres, decreased one acre from 2001. The increase in the number of farms and land in farms primarily resulted from the inclusion of pasture only farms in 2002.

A new ERS Report entitled Farmland Protection: The Role of Public Preferences for Rural Amenities.

To investigate the importance of preserving various rural amenities, this report examines the enabling legislation of farmland protection programs across the 48 contiguous States, and the implementation of these programs in Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Vermont. The report also assesses how farmland protection programs fit into the broader array of rural land conservation programs. This report, AER-815, was released on November 3. The report has been posted on the ERS website, at

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/aer815>.

KSU Small Farm Program Receives National Recognition.

Dr. Marion Simon will be featured speaker for the National Risk Management Education Conference in Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas on March 26-27, 2003. Her presentation "Farming Risks: Issues from the Southern Perspective" is one of the three key presentations. She will also present the Kentucky State University Risk Management Education Model for Kentucky's Small and Minority Farmers as both an invited poster presenter and a speaker.

The Kentucky State University Risk Management Education for Kentucky's Small, Limited-Resource, Minority and Women Farmers Project has been selected as the 2002 Featured "Best" Program and is currently being used as the National Model by the Southern Region Risk Management Center. Dr. Marion Simon is the Project Director.

The Kentucky State University "Third Thursday Thing" Sustainable Agriculture Workshops were selected as a USDA-SARE Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education national model program for 2002. Dr. Marion Simon is the Project Manager.

The Kentucky State University Land Grant Program "Third Thursday" Goat Day was held on March 20, 2003 and approximately 250 farmers participated in the event.

For more information please contact Dr. Marion Simon at msimon@gwmail.kysu.edu or at 502-597-6437. Access the website at www.kysu.edu and click on Land Grant.

COMMUNICATION NETWORK

Books for Sale

Dirt Under My Nails: An American Farmer and Her Changing Land by Marilee Foster. Written as a seasonal diary, the book reminisces about a year of Marilee Foster's experiences as a fifth-generation farmer on 600 acres on Long Island. Despite the continually encroaching urbanization of the Hamptons and other ultra-chic communities and

skyrocketing real-estate prices, her farmland has "the best soil in the nation." 175 pages. \$22.95. To order, call toll free 1-800-433-1155 or visit <http://www.basbleu.comwww.basbleu.com>.

Videos for Sale

"Nothing But Herbs: A Case Study of a Small Acreage Farm" & "Riley Creek Blueberry Farm: A Case Study of a Small-Acreage Farm". Each video walks you through working small acreage farm - from planting to marketing. The Herb video runs 46 minutes and the Blueberry video runs 45 minutes. Each video is \$30, and can be ordered by contacting University of Idaho College of Agriculture and Live Sciences at 208-885-7982. To read about the herb video, and the owner of Nothing But Herbs, see <http://www.uidaho.edu/extension>.

CSREES Success Stories Available on the Web

Four fact sheets that outline successes of the CSREES/Land Grant University partnership are now available from the CSREES website. All four of the following fact sheets (as well as the CSREES Plant Sciences Update) can be accessed from <http://www.reeusda.gov/1700/programs/pest.htm>.

USDA Crop Profiles Provide Critical Data on Pest Management
(<http://www.reeusda.gov/pestmgt/successpdf/cropprofiles.pdf>)

<http://www.reeusda.gov/pestmgt/successpdf/weeddecision.pdf>

New from EPA's Ag Center

The serves as the "first stop" for people in the agriculture community who need information on compliance with environmental regulations. For more information, see www.epa.gov/agriculture, or call 1-888-663-2155.

Website URL - Farmer's Bookshelf

For more information, see <http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/fb/index.html>.

OPPORTUNITIES

Beginning Producer Roundup.

The Wisconsin School for Beginning

Diary Farmers is taking applications for its 2003-2004 class. Program includes the University of Wisconsin-Madison "Farm and Industry Short Course," as well as special training sessions and seminars about managing a grass-based dairy. For more information, see <http://www.wisc.edu/cias/schools/dairysch.html> or call 608-588-2836.

**Extension Agricultural Marketing Specialist
Position Announcement**

The application period for this position has been extended to April 3. To view the updated announcement on-line, go to <http://www.uvm.edu/extension/jobs/agmarketingspec.pdf>.

UPCOMING EVENTS

<http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/fb/index.html> April 7, 2003 - Tucson, AZ

Aquaculture Extension Conference

Contact: Kevin Fitzsimmons at 540-626-3324.

April 15, 2003 - Nashville, TN

**Turfgrass and Landscape
Management Workshop**

Contact: 615-963-5443.

April 15-17, 2003 - Nashville, TN

**Agri-Marketing Conference and
Trade Show**

For more information, see www.nama.org/amc/amc-index.htm or call 913-491-6500.

April 23-25, 2003 - Baton Rouge, LA

**Financial Management & Crop Insurance
Training for Ag Professionals Who Work
With Under-Served Producers**

The training will equip you to provide business management and crop insurance assistance to under-served producers and give you high quality tools and materials. Contact: Dr. Albert Essel at 804-524-5871 or

via e-mail at: aessel@vsu.edu.

April 26, 2003 - Langston, OK

18th Annual Goat Field Day

Contact: Dr. Terry Gipson at 405-466-3836

or via e-mail at: tgipson@luresext.edu or
gipson_ok@yahoo.com.

April 30, 2003 - Minneapolis, MN

Immigration & the Food Processing Industry

Contact: Dr. Cornelia Flora at 515-294-1329.

May 2-4, 2003 - West Springfield, MA

Northeast Llama Showcase

For more information, see

www.northeastllamashowcase.com or
call 212-924-9847.

May 7-9, 2003 - Albuquerque, NM

Financial Management & Crop Insurance Training for Ag Professionals Who Work With Under-Served Producers

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May 14-17, 2003 - Austin, TX

Organic Conference & Trade Show

For more information, see

www.ota.com/tradeshow/index.html or
call 413-774-7511.

June 8-11, 2003 - University Park, PA

45th Mushroom Industry Conference

The conference will focus on exchanging ideas for mushroom production, merchandising and research. Contact: Dr. Daniel J. Royse at 814-865-7322 or via e-mail at: [dj4@psu.edu](mailto:djr4@psu.edu).

June 19-21, 2003 - Shepherdstown, WV

Regional Rural and Ag-Tourism Conference

Contact: Potomac Heritage Partnership at 202-333-4478 or via e-mail at:

conference@potomacheritage.org.

June 27-30, 2003 - Essex, VT

National Farm Transition Network Conference

The conference will focus on farm succession and farm entry strategies.

Contact: Debra Heleba at 802-656-0233 or via e-mail at: debra.helba@uvm.edu.

September 4-5, 2003 - Normal, AL

Agricultural Risk Management Education for Small Farmers

Contact: Dr. Duncan M. Chembezi at 1-866-858-4970 or 1-256-372-4970 or via e-mail at: dchembezi@aamu.edu.

October 6-9, 2003 - San Diego, CA

Survival Strategies for Small and Limited Resource Farmers and Ranchers

The conference will identify, develop, and promote successful risk management strategies that small and limited resource farmers can use to be economically viable in a rapidly changing agriculture environment. For more information, see <http://www.rma.usda.gov/calendar/2003/october.html> or call 202-690-3578.

November 5-7, 2003 - Columbia, MO

Regional Workshop

The North Central Region Small Farm Task Force will be holding a regional workshop in conjunction with the National Small Farm Trade Show. Contact: Deborah Cavanaugh-Grant via e-mail at: cvnghgrn@uiuc.edu.

<http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/fb/index.html>

FEEDBACK: CSREES Small Farm Program Highlights is a dialogue resource tool primarily for State Small Farm Program Coordinators and others who work with the small farmers and ranchers. If you have questions, information to share, comments, or interest in subscribing or unsubscribing, send to asimon@reeusda.gov.

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